Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 19 through page 6, line 5, with the below paragraph.

The system 3 gives the user a chance to confirm that the system recognized the user's utterances correctly and offers help options that explain in detail the user's options at any given point in the workflow process. In addition to prompting users for information one data point at a time, the system 3 has the added benefit of allowing experienced users to speak in natural language sentences, containing multiple data attributes. For example, the user could say "$20 for parking on November 15 for the integration project." The system parses the utterance into its component attributes (i.e. Amount="$20," Date="November 15," Category="parking," and Project="integration project"), confirms them with the user, and then stores the data in the proper fields in the database 4. Users can sign up for the service in several different languages, and the information they enter over the phone in their native tongue can be automatically translated into another language by the system 3, in order to be sent to an accounting or financial system running in another language. Unless an administrator changes the ~~permissioning~~ permissions of the system 3, the user only has access to his or her own records. Information collected via the voice interface is stored in a database repository (4) for future access, reference, and manipulation.

A1

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 6 through 17, with the below paragraph.

The database (4) is designed with an open architecture that allows it to store and transfer data among the various components of the system; the voice, Web, fax and PDA interfaces 3, 8, client and financial systems 9,10, and other third party service providers 8. The database 4 stores all of the information collected through the voice, Web, fax and PDA interfaces 3,8 as well as the associated customized vocabularies needed for the voice and voice-Web interfaces. Access to specific information in the database 4 is controlled by a rules-based ~~permissioning~~ permissions system 5 (discussed later), so that each user group has access only to appropriate information. The database 4 is also linked to applications that translate faxed documents into data, applications that translate speech into data, and other applications that ensure seamless

A2

A2 integration of all user interface options with client and financial systems, and the processing systems of third party service providers.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 16 through 23 with the following amended paragraph:

In one form, the invention enables users to access data stored in the database repository 4, using a spectrum of other interfaces (8), in addition to the speech interface 1, 2, 3. These interfaces 8 also serve as channels of data output, for approval and authorization or reporting A3 processes, defined by the business rules (5) and workflows (6) as defined by the user or some affiliated party. In addition, the system allows different levels of authorization and access, so that ~~endusers~~ end users, managers, accounting and HR staff, clients, etc., can have access to specific subsets or supersets of information. The system provides users input and output access to data via the following means 8.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 3 through 10, with the below paragraph.

The Main Menu options of "Application 2" at 17 and "Application 3" at 18 in Fig. 2 represent a second and third application, respectively, available to the user. Each application A4 varies by the user, and thus is not described in detail here, but may for example include time tracking, travel planning, purchase requisition, other business applications requiring financial record keeping for tax purposes or internal reporting. To illustrate that a multiplicity of such applications may be made ~~abailable~~ available to the user, "Application N" at 19 is shown in Fig. 2 and represents N number of applications available to the user, which will vary by the user.

Please replace the paragraph at page 16, lines 14 through 18, with the below paragraph.

A5 If at the confirmation step 48, the user says that the entry is correct, the system proceeds to step 54, End New Expense. The system exits the new expense process 22, and returns to the Expense Menu 21 (Fig. 3). In one embodiment the system asks the user if he or she wishes to

A5

enter another new expense, in which case it returns to the ~~beginning~~ beginning of New Expense 22 (Fig. 4).

Please replace the paragraph at page 24, lines 1 through 8, with the below paragraph.

A6

At step108, the login process 12 processes the user's ID and Password, accesses the valid ID-Password combinations, and compares them in order to decide whether or not to give the user access to the system. If a match (step 109) is found, then step 110 Uploads the user's account from database 4 onto IVR 3. Following user verification, the system 12 uploads the user's account information, including account-specific grammars, settings, and other information necessary to personalize the system in its interaction with the user. Once the login process is complete (step 111), the system presents the user with the main menu 14 of Fig. 2.

Please replace the paragraph at page 29, lines 4 through 18, with the below paragraph.

A7

A computer method is disclosed for the capture, tracking, and management of accounting data using natural language speech recognition with landline or wireless telephones. Information is stored in a central or peer-to-peer database, which in addition to the speech recognition interface, may be accessed using touchtone telephone menus; Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs); WAP, RIM and other wireless protocol phones and devices; the Web; fax; email and other messaging protocols; synchronizable off-line applications; corporate financial systems; and distributed networks. In one form, the user initiates a telephone call and the invention confirms the user's identification, prompts the user for accounting information, records the information provided by the user into the appropriate database and language if the user's native tongue is different than that used by the accounting system, and provides to the user information in response to inquiries using natural language speech recognition. ~~The user may choose both the voice the system uses to communicate with the user and the style or tone of voice with which the system speaks. The user may access and edit the accounting information stored in this database using any of the other mediums mentioned above.~~